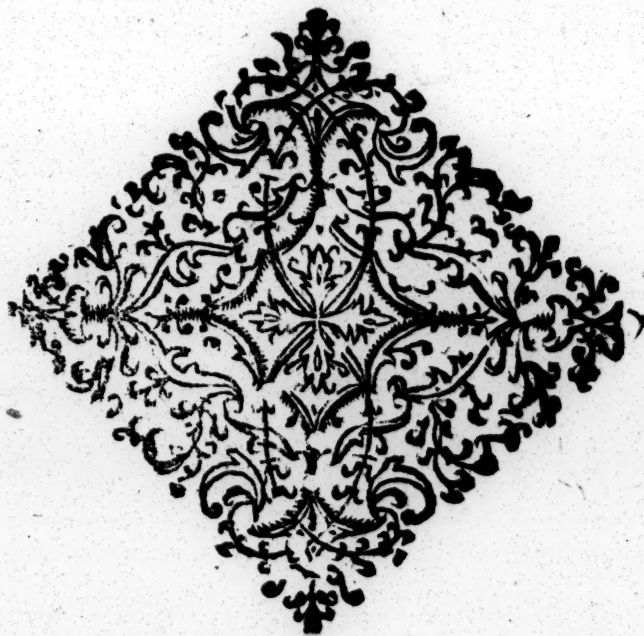


A
VVHIPPE
FOR THE 3^d.
Custome-house Curre:

OR,

A Survey of *Jeremiah Watts* his scurrilous Pamphlet,
called an Answer to Quæries, touching Reducement of the
Excise to the Customes,



L O N D O N,
Printed in the Year M. DC. LIII.

WALTON

1811

110

WALTON
1811

59-256

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE

WALTON

Printed in the Year M. DC. LXXXI



A
WHIPPE FOR
THE
Custome-house Curre.

O R,

A Survey of *Feremiah Wats* his Scurrilous Pamphlet, cal-
led an Answer to Quæries, touching Reducement of
the Excise to the Customes.

Sir,

Y Our bawling, grouling, snarling, shewing your teeth, fawning and sneaking, throughout your Pamphlet, maketh you appeare a Curre in Print. In your first Page you call your Book, *an Answer* : Avant for shame : Do you proclaime your self a lover of Truth, and yet the very first word of your Book a palpable falshood to your own knowledge : Have you not as to most of the Quæries, done like an *Egyptian* Curre, lapp and away, with your taile between your leggs, being conscious to your self that there might be danger in staying too long upon them, as being unanswerable by the Oracle that whisper-ed your dictates to you.

Ibidem, You call the Quæries *Scandalous* : Sir, your semi-an-swer, though it over-flow with froth and scurrility, is no scandale to the Author of the Quæries. If any of your Masters be by the Quæries slandered of matters of truth, let them see to it, proof is ready for every *Iota* charged upon them and much more.

Ibid. You call the Quæries *Deceitfull* : Herein you have spoken

clandestine designs fruitlesse, and deceive them in their grand expectation of improving their Salary by the Reducement.

Ibid. You say, *The Quarries were publisht by necessity*. Sir, was not this your proper name in one thousand six hundred forty seven, before you turned taylor upon the Company of Weavers: it seemeth so, its so frequent in all your lines.

Ibid. You style your self, *A lover of Truth*: Sir, in this you are a shamelesse Curre: what then meaneth, your large garnish of loud untruthes in every Page, if not in every line of your Pamphlet, which all the readers thereof can testifie.

Ibid. You proclaim your self *A discoverer of cringers, fawners, very confident little witted ones, gapers after large Sallaries, aymers at self enriching, yet pretenders of Publique good, flatterers, sneakers, deceivers by faire words, and such as are carelesse whether the Common-wealth sink or swimme*; A brave setting Curre indeed. Sir, had not a check by discovery been given to the Custome-house designe of Reducement to your hand, happily you might at your own home have discovered all those precious qualifications. Look about thee *Feremy*: have you not a quondam grand Cringee, who ever since the dissolution of the late Parliamēt, hath been cringing: fawning, and attending upon many honourable persons, eminent in power, and that in more lobbies than one, and all to beguile them into a Reducement, yea, and all must be for the Common-wealths good forsooth, to save expence, the old thread-bare juggle, whereas the bottom of the design is onely to double the Commissioners Sallary, which is too large for their work already: And by this device, the Common-wealth should have gained seven fold the value of the expence saved, over the left shoulder. But the sport is, the little witt you speake of, hath quite out-witted your grand witts, and turned your confidence into a degree of despair.

Then, *ibid.* You cry roastmeate, saying, *that money is stirring at the Custome-house*: Sir, if it were not so, how could *Feremy*, by watching Hawkes, and such like services, have woven himself into his hundreds of pounds, that before was hardly worth a groat.

In your Second page, you snarle, and bawle to some tune, and

fly out with open mouth, upon a kinsman, or Unkle of the Author of the *Quæries*, in such abusive way, as deserves a whip to make you smart for it : you taxe him with Symony in sharing the profits of a place of trust. Were you of a right Spannel breed, I would rebuke you here with a *wave Hawke Sirra*. How naturall soever Symony may be to the Custome-house, your Instructors dare not say, but that the hands of that honourable person are cleane, and his thoughts more pure than you surmize them : Lay thy nose to the ground, may you not retriue some such birds among your selves, that have offered, if not given lustily to promote Custome-house designs.

Ibid. You say, that he made a *thinne Lawyer and Souldier an Excise man*, which you assert to be onely proper for Tradesmen, and that the Author of the *Quæries*, scarce knowes straw from hops, &c. Sir look home a little, are not some of your Masters well thickened, since they came to the Custome-house, that were thinne enough not long before ? Are Souldiers uncapeable of imployment in the Excise, more than in the Custome-house : Your grand Master if he had pleased, could have informed you, that the Unkle you dream of, was not in the Parliament house when the Author of the *Quæries* was voted into his imployment. He could have told you, that your very objection of no tradesmen, was then strongly insisted on, for some self ends, as now it is : But the Argument was cried down by the major vote. And truely Sir, the gentleman is so well skilled in trade, that he can readily discern a pack of Wooll from a bale of Silk : And doubtlesse *Jeremy*, thy self will testifie thus much of him, that he did not sneak into the imployment, upon pretence to serve the Parliament *gratis*.

Then *ibid.* Like a disturbed Curre, you bark and bawle at a malevolent favourable Planet : A wonder indeed : Surely you find your design planet-struck, that you rage so like a mad Curre in all the rest of that Page : But you do but barke at the Moone : what will you say, if an Astronomer discover a malignant Planet in the Custome-house Region, whose influence was so furious, that it threatned to beat our gallant Atmy a full yard under ground : And yet within a day or two afterwards, its fury vanisht, and it be-
came

came so fully retrograde, that it fawned on that Object, whereon before it had so deadly frowned; If you ask your grand Master, happily he may tell you the exact time and station of this changeable Stars appearance.

Then *Ibid.* You rave at the printing of the Quæries, and delivering them to the Members of Parliament: Sir, it seemeth, your design was to have led the Parliament hood-winkt into a Reduction, to the Common-wealths vast prejudice, and your own self-advantage.

You say, *Ibid.* *Such persons will be espied, and rejected*: But Sir, your design is already actually espied, and in a fair way of Reprobation, notwithstanding all your puddling and lapwing play used to prevent it.

In your third page, you pretend to recite a clause in the Quæries page 1. *That the Receipt of the Excise is 300000 l. per annum. notwithstanding its obstructions*: If thou be not a false Curre, deal fairly: Are not the words these! (*The nett Receipt of the Excise, all charges deducted, is 300000 l. per annum.*) Besides, have you not cut off the *non obstante* at the very buttocks. This is the method of the Father of lies in his quotations. But you dealt prudently in concealing those passages, least the nett Receipt of the Customes should be called for, with those invisible extraordinary charges in Collecting them, which should they once appear, its doubted, that the Custome-house account would be rendered little better than Flemmish.

Ibid. You say, *The Excise must needs be obstructed, for Tradesmen will out-wit Ignoramusses*: Speak truth *Feremy*, hath your grand Master out-witted them? Have Trades-men out-witted them, more than they did the preceding Commissioners, who were all Trades-men? Were not the major part of the present Commissioners of Excise Trades-men? Have patience till thy seventeenth page be surveyed, and thou shalt see an Ignoramus at the Custome-house, of the grossest kind:

Ibid. You say, *That the Receipts of Excise was 400000. l. per annum many yeares sithence; that its now but 300000. l. per annum; and so its growth is like a Cowes tail, downward.* A brave Curre

Curre indeed: You expect that your Masters should spit in your mouth for this: Sir, shew the time, if you can, when the nett Receipt of Excise was 400000 *l. per annum*: speak a little truth, its in your own cause: Was not all that trade then in being, which you much want at the Custome-house? as you speak in your next page: And was there not at the time you wot of, an Excise upon Flesh, and upon Beer and Ale brewed in private families.

You say, *If Trade were restored, it would advance the Customs 200000. l. per annum*; And would it not advance the Excise as much? Adde the Native Excise which is taken off, and then you may be happily ashamed of your Cowes tail.

Ibid. You say, *Some seeming small improvement of the Excise hath been by farming, and that the Farmers have sherkt and oppressed the people, and that the Authors of such Exorbitances ought to be punished*: Here you shew your teeth, but you cannot fasten; give one instance, if you can, where the Commissioners of Excise have in the least connived at any such oppression proved before them: your Oracle can inform you, that power of farming the Excise was Enacted, in order to your designed Reducement; if so, then all inconveniences attendiug it must lie at your own doores. And as for sherks, it may in due season be proved, that some of your own Officers have sherkt both Customs and Excise, and yet have been connived at for couzenage sake.

In Page fourth you fawn on your Masters, and boast of their accounting for between 3. and 400000 *l. per annum* for four yeares last past; *And that if Trade were in the same plight as it was in 1648. the Customs would rise to 500000. l. per annum, if managed as they now are*: Your Masters should throw you a crust for this. But Sir, Is not an account for 300000. *l.* and a groat *per annum*. an account for between 3. and 400000. *l. per annum*. Again Sir, all this while the nett Receipt of the Customs, and the extraordinary charges in collecting them, appeares not; would your Customs advance so high, and yet the Excise grow downwards: Who is the Ignoramus now *Jeremy*? But Sir, its much to be doubted, that all this which you mention, will not raise the Customs to your undoubted height, though you

you take in the Impost on Sea-coales to help you.

In your fifth page, you quote these words in the Quæries, *viç. The Excise is a full check to the Customs* (wilfully omitting these words, *viç. In all Entries of goods imported, &c.*) and you say, *That an honourable Member of Parliament, who is one of the Checks to the Customs, can inform you, that this is an untruth* : Sir, that honourable Gentleman will surely assert no more, but that the Checks to the Customs, are Checks but to cash alone, not to any Entries, landings of Goods, Sufferances, and other actings at the Custome-house : whereas the Excise is, or ought to be, a full Check to the Customs in all points, no Warrant for landing, or shipping off Goods, being to be passed by the Custome Officer, untill it be first subscribed by the Officer for Excise.

Ibid. You assert, *That the Commissioners for Customs, for some Commodities, receive double as much money, as the Commissioners for Excise, regard being had to the respective values set in each receipt, and deduction for any of them exported.* Sir, as to this, you well know, that the Customs are paid at the landing of goods; the Excise not till sale : its rationall in your account, to allow what remaineth on the Merchants hands unfold : The Custome Officers allow for no decayednesse of goods, but what is visible at the first landing; the Excise Officer is obliged to make allowance for decayednesse of goods, as it appeareth at the time of sale, which is far greater in goods perishable. Adde to these the great losse of Excise incurred by your sufferances, whereby goods are often landed without privy of the Excise Officer. Adde your retention of Customs, and the full repayment of Excise upon Eportations, and the Commissioners of Excise will enter the lists with your Masters in the point proposed.

Ibid. You desire, *That the Commissioners for Customs, and the Commissioners for Excise, should bring in perfect accounts of moneyes received upon every distinct imported Commodity, and that the Commonwealth should be righted out of their Estates that are culpable* : Sir, your grand Master can inform you, how often the Commissioners of Customs, and the Commissioners of Excise, have been commanded to bring in their accounts, in order to the pretended
Re-luce-

Reducement. 1. To the Committee for Regulating the Excise: 2. To the Committee of Retrenchment. 3. To the Commissioners for inspection, and management of Treasuries. He can tell you, that the Commissioners for Excise have not hitherto been found tardie.

You impute the unswerablenesse of the two Receipts upon some Commodities, unto the Commissioners of Excise, their unskillfulnesse in Trade: Sir, see your error, and own it; Were not the preceding Commissioners of Excise, all of them, versed in Trade? And was not the disproportion of the severall Receipts on the Commodities you wot of, as great as it hath been since? nay, was it not greater.

Again, view over the names of the succeeding Commissioners; Were not the major part of them versed in Trade also? I believe none of your Masters will compare with them therein: so that its evident, that the disproportion, if any be, ariseth by your unlawfull sufferances, whereby Goods have been delivered at foreign Keys without any knowledge of the Excise Officer: And Sir, the Commissioners of Excise accept your kind offer, where any of them have swarved from their trust, they are content to suffer in their estates for it, so as the Commissioners for Customs may be under the same law.

Sir, one word more on this point; when the Parliament, upon full debate debate, have adjudged persons serviceable for publique employment, its somewhat immodest for you, its more for your grand Master, to defile his own nest, to tax the Parliament with ill-advisednesse in their actings.

Ibid. You say, *That each sett of Commissioners have a considerable Salary*: What a bawling Carre is this? Your Masters, in prudence, should here have muzzled you. Have your Masters a considerable Salary already, *val. 800 or 1000 l. per annum*? what reason or conscience have they then, to act the parts of the sonnes of the Horseleech, by endeavouring to improve their Salary, by a Reducement of both Receipts into their own hands.

Then you proclaim their Salary to be *Groats poundage, in consideration, that they secure to the State all moneys received for Customs,*

Stomes, &c. Sir, have not your Masters sufficient counter-security from their Collectors? If so, what doth this amount unto? Ask your Masters what induced the Parliament to settle them at the Custome-house? Was it not a promise to serve the Parliament *Gratis*? If so, then *Feremy* search the Buckram bag to the bottome, and turn over all the Dictionaries in *London*, and if thou canst find the latine word, *Gratis*, rendered in English *Groats*, saving in the Custome-house Dictionary, thou shalt passe for as laudable a Schollar, as thou wert a Weaver, when *F. O.* characterized thee.

In your sixth page you say, *That the Salary of the Commissioners for Excise, is 3 d. per l. yet they secure not the moneys received by their Collectors*: Sir, as to this, its well known, that all moneys received for Excise, have been secured from the very inception of the Receipt to this day: Cloud not the truth *Feremy*. Is not the service of the Excise a double burthento that of the Customs? Doe the Commissioners of the Customs sit above three or four houres each day? Doe not the Commissioners of the Excise sit at the least six houres each day, frequently seven or eight houres? Have not your Masters frequent Relaxations from their service by old prelatieall Holy-dayes? Have the Commissioners of Excise any such vacancy? Now Sir, see what a Logieall Result will flow from your own words.

Say you, *The Salary of the Commissioners for Excise is considerable for their service, at 3 d. per l.* Its undeniable, that the service of the Commissioners of Excise is double to the service of the Commissioners for Customs: *Ergo 1 d. ob. per l.* had been in all reason a considerable Salary for the Commissioners of Customs, and consequently they should render the over-plus to the Common-wealth, that should have been served *Gratis*: But its doubted, that this Logick will not digest with your Masters.

Ibid. You cite an old Proverb, *When Gamesters, viz. Theives, fall out, true Men come by their goods.* What an untaught, and unruly Curre is this to fly in his own Masters faces, and call them Theives? Sir, its left to your Masters free will to accept their share of the Proverb, though its hoped they have no right to it,

you shall find the Commissioners of Excise unspotted of any such gaming upon the exactest scrutiny. The whippe is too light for this Calumny cast on your Masters: They should doe you right, to make your Mittimus, and send you with it to a Falconers shop to be trussed up for Hawkes meat. The residue of your froth in this page hath been formerly answered, to which I referre you.

In your seventh Page you speak of persons of grand abilities, *so modest, that they are hardly perswaded to take great imployments upon them.* Sir, were your Masters thus modest? speak truth *Jeremy*, if thou canst; Who courted your Masters into their imployment at the Custome-house? Was it Collonel *Venn*? Who courted the Parliament for them? you know with what Argument, and what was answered unto it. Or did your Masters court him about it? Who courted your Masters in *June 1652.* into the then design of Reducing the Excise to the Customes? Did not they court a strong party to effect it for them? Nay, did not Collonel *Harvey* in person court the Commissioners of Excise, to forbear presenting such matters as would knock the Reducement on the head, as he then phrased it? so eminent is your Masters modesty in this point.

Ibid. Follow these words; *You shall have a confident Pettifogger turn his Buckram bag into a Knap sack, and instantly become a Collonel, and after warres ended, become an Excise Commissioner, &c.* Here Sir you bawle, and snarle, and lay about you bravely. Had the Buckram bag been turn'd into a Wool-sack, you would have mouthed it profoundly. Sir, your *London* Buckram bags will tell you, that the word Pettifogger will bear an Action with round dammages. But to make a Collonel the immediate Result of a Knap sack, to make a Knap sack and a Collonel convertibles deserves the cane, to make your Curreship to howle out-right; but the whippe shall suffice for it. Sir, your grief is, that this Collonell is become a Commissioner for Excise. Well, nose it a little at your own doores; How many Knap sacks, or Collonells, doe you muster at the Custome-house? Are there not six or seven at least? Are Knap sacks materials to make Custome Officers of, and not Excise Officers? Have yee seven for one, and doth it not suffice?

suffice? This is a Curriish appetite; But to stay thy appetite a little; smell hard to thy seven Knapfacks, and tell me, findest thou in none of them any plunder; free quarter, Souldiers pay detained, false Musters, rich Presents, &c? Its well: Be sure hunt as close as thou canst, thou shalt never find the least scent of any such thing in the **Excise** Knapfack.

You proceed to a scrutiny of the charge in collecting the *Excise*: And you observe, *That the Excise of imported Goods is 150000 l. per annum*: And you believe the *Customes for the same Goods are double as much*: Sir, if Tunnage and Poundage on Excisable Goods amount unto 300000 *l. per annum*, its probable, that the old **Customes**, **Algier** duty, **Customes** on Goods unexcisable imported and exported; *Viz.* Drapery, Leather, Skins, Victuals, Sea-coales, &c. will make 100000 *l. per annum* more, which its hoped will appear on your Masters accounts accordingly.

Then Sir, taking it for granted, *that all Native Excise is farmed out*, you set the whole charge of Collecting the *Excise*, upon the imported Goods, at the rate of 4 *s. per-l.* supposing, *that the Excise of all Native Goods came in Gratis*: Here like a false Curre you hunt counter, and abuse your Readers: The Alehouse-keepers in *London*, of whom you are so tender in your Pamphlet, cantell you, that the *Excise of Ale and Beer in London* was never farmed out, yea, divers whole Counties, and many considerable parts of other Counties, have remained unfarmed, which summed up together, amounteth well near to the one moiety of the *Native Excise*: so that your very foundation failes you.

Again Sir, upon farming out the *Native Excise*, the greatest expence taken off is the Sallary of Sub-Commissioners, whom the Farmers succeeded: Your grand Master could have told you, that upon removal of Sub-Commissioners, the Committee of Regulation did usually allow them their Bills of extraordinary charges, with liberall allowances, for Collecting such Arreares as stood out at the Farmers Entrie. Besides, the farming of *Excise* taketh off no Sallary of the Comptroller or Auditor: Now Sir, whether the *Excise of imported Goods*, is to be charged with the whole expence in collecting the whole Receipt of *Excise*; let

any rationall man judge : The truth is, your assertion, that the Excise of imported Goods was collected at the charge of 4 s. per l. is a meer deceit to colour your design.

In your eighth Page you say, *That the Excise is asserted in the Quæries, to be a full check to the Customes as they now stand, and that formerly it was a perfect check, and you demand a logical difference between a full and a perfect check* : Sir, here you are clipping the Quæries again. The words in the Quæries are, *The Excise is a full check to the Customes, as to Entries of all Goods imported, &c, but when they had Tide-waiters, &c. they were a perfect check to the Customes, in all deliveries of Goods, &c.* Its hoped, that your Capacity now apprehendeth that difference, which you could not formerly reach.

Then you cite another Assertion in the Quæries, which you mangle also for your own ends ; you cite it thus ; *Viz. Since the taking off Excise Tide-waiters, few rich Goods are entred with the Excise, or Customes, and both Duties lost* : Whereas the words are concealed by you which are most materiall, *Viz. Many rich Goods are conveyed from one Ship-board without any Entry at all, and so both Duties lost.*

Then you affirm, that *the State saved much expence by dismissing the Excise Tide-waiters, &c.* Sir, were the accounts of the Customers extraordinary charges produced, it would bee visible to all men, what a pure Cheate was put upon the state in this businesse : Saving of expence was pretended : But intruth the expence of the State is much increased by that reducement of the Excise Tide-waiters : which will be thus evidenced.

The Excise Tide-waiters were 24. The Custome Tide-waiters were 32. The Salaryes of both 20. l. per annum. The Tide-waiters for the Customes are now augmented, in number to above 50. Their Salary advanced to 25. l. per annum, besides creeping things almost innumerable, called extraordinary men, multiplied into hundereds, and their Salary advanced from 16. d. per diem, to 2. s. per diem, besides proportionable advancement of Salaryes to their noon-tenders, night-watchers, &c. So that instead of saving expence to the State, by reducing the Excise Tide-waiters, the
same

same expence is encreased one fourth part at least : And yet your Masters will be beating the same bush againe.

Then you assert, that *the Tide-waiters take notice onely of the numbers, marks, and outward formes, but know not what it is in them. And they prevent delivery of goods from off shipboard without due entry.* Sir, how falls it out then, that such abundance of rich goods are daily conveyed from off shipboard without any entry at all? It must proceed from want of Waiters on board, or want of faithfullnesse, not easily discoverable, now the sole trust on shipboard is in them. Where was *Feremy* when the Hawkes, which he watched, flew away without entry? the best is, the fault was veniall. *Feremy* was but a Tide-waiter, his duty was but to take notice of the outward form, the Cage or Perch that contained them, but whether they were Hawkes or Buzards, Owles or Jackdawes, it belonged not to a Tidewaiter to take knowledge of.

In your Ninth Page, you bark and snarle at your owne shadow, saying, that *although no entry passe at the Custome-house till the Deputy for Excise certifie that the Excise is satisfied, yet the Quæries affirme that both Customes and Excise are lost: but you can shew the Customes received, &c.* Sir, this is a puppet of your own framing. The Quæries assert, that goods of vast value, by default of your Tide-waiters, are conveyed from off shipboard without any entry at all, and so both duties lost. Now if you can shew satisfaction as to Excise certified, or Customes payed for goods never entered nor discovered, thou shalt not onely be exempt from the whip, but have thy full swing at the pottage pot all thy daies.

As for your frequent bawling out, that *the Excise Officers have acknowledged the Excise satisfied*, its a meer fallacy to delude the the Reader; its true those words, *the Excise is satisfied*, were usuall in Certificates in the time of the preceding Commissioners of Excise, when goods were sent for the coast, and happily sometimes upon entries inward: which words import rather caution taken for payment of Excise, than actuall payment of it. But the present Commissioners of Excise discovering some inconveniences attending that expression, directed their eyes and hands at the Custome-house, to use words more apposite: *ViZ. Security is given,*

ven, &c. as to the Excise, as the case required : Which was no ill fruit of the conjunction of the Buckram bag with the blew apron, in the service of the Excise.

In your Tenth Page, you fawn gallantly on your grand Master, applauding his transcendent abilities, but you come off like a lame Curre in the close. How now Sirra, do you onely hope that your grand Master is honest ; Why didst thou not offer Affidavit in that point, to make all compleat ? You add, that for your part, you conceive it was well for the Common-wealth, that your grand Master was a Member of the Committee for Regulating the Excise. Sir, the words (for your part) are well inserted, it was well for the Officers of the Customs, that he was a Member of that Committee. How many hundered pounds, *per annum*, advance of Sallary hath he there obtained for the Custome-Officers in one day ? *Feremy*, hadst not thou thy part therein ? Then you rave at the propounding of the example of *Holland* and *Leghorne*, to abate the ancient and sollide revenue of the Customs, and to enhance the new receipt of Excise, which was settled onely for times of extreamity, and expected to cease, when the necessities of the Nation will permit. Sir, it seemeth then, that you care not though Trade faile, so that Customs may stand. To this end you turn Royallist, pleading Antiquity and Consolidation of the Revenue of the Customs : Your great Master could have told you, that it hath been resolved in Parliament, that Tunnage and Poundage was no ancient nor consolidated revenue of the late King, but was ever granted in Parliament for set time, and upon pressing occasions, to augment our strength at Sea, so that in truth each Receipt standeth on the same ground, and therefore whensoever the occasion shall cease, every reall *English* Spirit will desire to see the Taxe cease also.

In the Eleventh Page, you whine at a proposal to raise the Excise upon Commodities fomenting pride, luxury, and drunkenness. This you interpret as a connivance at these vices, and an increasing of Revenue by the hire of a Whore. Sir, this is an argument but loosely woven, it holds not. Surely *Feremy* is engaged in some of these wayes, he is so tender of them.

Then

Then you pronounce your grave judgement, that *the Reducement is not for the publique good*, your grand Masters words were that, *it was not practicable* : yet to this day he practiseth, with all his power, to effect it for his private good.

Then you snarle at the Quæries mentioning, the *inequallity of your sweet morsels, your Salaries* : which, you say, *were minced out for you in Mincing Lane, and confirmed by Parliament* : Sir, admit what you say, yet is it not fit, when Salaries are to be retrenched, that the greater Salary, for the same service, be levelled with the lesser : otherwise its not properly a retrenchment.

In your Twelfth Page you fly out, with open mouth, at the Quæries, for asserting that *there is not one honest man at the Custome-house* : Sir, you wrong the Quæries. A Reformation throughout, implies not absolute dishonesty, but irregularity, and that not in all persons, but in its severall Stations, and some persons in those stations : If the whole were corrupt, Reformation were too gentle a cure : Its your griefe that Alderman *Tichburn*, and Master *Moyer* are not charged in the Quæries : Sir, these are times that distinguish men, and do own those gentlemen as persons of integrity and worth. And as for the Alderman : He was absent in *Scotland* upon the grand affaires of the Nation, a great part of the time of the late obstructions of the Excise at the Custome-house, and for one whole year, he was Sheriffe of *London*, and acted little at the Custome-house, so that it had been injurious to have charged him with those obstructions.

Then you say, that *no Custome-Officer is prooved to trade as a Merchant, (except one Opey of Plimonth, thrown out of his imployment for it, though the Commissioners of Customs were much court-ed by Parliament men, and Officers of the Army to keep him in.)* Here is an audacious Curre indeed, at once fawning on his Masters, and snapping at Parliament men, and Officers of the Army, as tampering to corrupt them. Sir, though *Opey* onely be named as an eminent defrauder of the Excise to the value of 2000. l. or thereabout, yet many more of the same kind are ready to be produced : If Custome-Officers trade not, how is it that they have so many import accounts in the Excise Office : Sir, they either trade them-

selves, or by firminge for unknown men, they help to conceale such traders in Exciseable goods, as should pay Excise upon taking up of their goods, which is a more grosse misdemeanour than the former. You proclaim your Masters unbyasedness to their trust in the business of *Opey*: For your more full satisfaction therein, ask your grand Master, who was Mr. *Operes* grand Advocate, at his hearing before the Committee? By whose advice did the Committee dis-misse him *ex Officio*, by virtue of the Act of Oblivion, though he demanded not benefit of the Act, nor produced any Certificate of his taking the Engagement, to render him capable of the pardon: So that upon a review, the State may as yet recover the moneys due from him.

In your Thirteenth Page, you say, that *Master Maurice Tom-pson, Master Bonner, Master, Lenthall, &c. Excise Officers, did actually trade*. Sir, there is no Law against Excise Officers trading, therefore no transgression: there is not the like danger in their trading, as in trading by Custome Officers. For the Custome-Officers have the power of delivery of all goods imported, &c. whereas the Excise Officer is but a stander by to see that goods be delivered according to warrant.

In your Fourteenth Page you rave at the Quæries asserting, that *upon conviction of non-entries by Custome Officers, the Excise is often concealed*. And you affirme, *That all seised goods are brought to the Common-wealths warehouse, and are not thence delivered after condemnation, &c. before due entry, and the Excise certified, satisfied, by Mr. Lenthall, or Mr. Crew, the hands and eyes of the Commissioners of Excise*. What a bold Curre is this: Sir, are no seised goods brought into private warehouses, without knowledge of the Excise Officer? Aske Mr. *Coltman*, whether Mr. *Lucyes* Cellars be the States publique Warehouse. But you say, *such seised goods, are before delivery, entered with the Excise and Customes*. Sir, this is but a meer device of the Custome house Officers to delay payment of Excise for such seizures. For the condemnation of the goods, is a disposall of them in Law to be forthwith sold, and the moiety of the value to come to the State, the other moiety to the Informer. And upon this first desposall, the Excise ought to be

C

payd,

payd, & not to stay till a second disposal : happily upon such entrees *M. Lenthal* may certifie satisfaction as to the Excise, which amounts onely to an acknowledgement of the entry, not of actuall payment of the Excise. But if the Excise hath actually been received, & concealed, its very just that the receiver should vomit it up againe. And its as just that such Customs Officers as have concealed, and swallowed up any such Excise, should be put to the vomit also, as some lately have been by conviction thereof before the Commissioners of Excise.

You then call *Mr. Lenthal*, and *Mr. Crew*, *The eyes, and hands, &c. of the Commissioners of Excise*. Good Sir, do your Masters use none other but their own proper eyes and hands in all their affaires. Surely they use at least as many as the Commissioners of Excise, if not more.

In your Fifteenth Page, you jeer the Author of the Quæries; or him that comprized the Book for him in point of *Oratorship*, in that he endeth highest at last. What an adventurous Curre is this ? you will be snapping at a Latine word, see how you snap short : you have filched this word (*Comprized*) out of the Buckram bag; but it fits you not, instead of *Comprizing the book*, you or your Masters meant *Compiling the book*, if you could have hit on't : But Sir, you shall be pardoned in things you were never bred unto.

Then, whereas the Quæries do charge three of your Masters onely, with obstructing the Excise, you affirm, that *Alderman Tichborne was omitted, because he is a member of Parliament*. Sir, this is in part answered before. Your grand Master well-knoweth, that the Quæries were in being when the Committee of Retrenchment sat in 1652. some time before the being of this present Parliament : At which time neither *Alderman Tichborne*, nor *Colonell Thomson*, were so much as mentioned in them. Aske your grand Master, whether he had no intimation of the Quæries at that time ? And whether he did not thereupon come to the Excise Office, where all six Commissioners were sitting ? And did he not then and there call God to witnesse, that he did not attempt any Reducement of the Excise to the Customs, nor ever should attempt it ; For he looked on it as a thing not practicable ? And did he not withall desire the Commissioners of Excise to offer nothing

to that Committee which might knock the reducement on the head: for it would be ill resented: But the Reducement, said he, would die of a Consumption. Aske him also, whether the papers of the Commissioners for excise, were at any time after, called for by that Committee? Sir, if there were no cause at that time to charge the Alderman, there is as little now.

Your Sixteenth Page is spent wholly in fawning on your Masters, and mouthing out their praises. And great newes you tell of your great Masters serving his Country in Parliament. Sir, hath he not served himself too therein in some degree; Compare his dimension now, with his dimension before he sat in Parliament, and you will find him somewhat improved.

In your Seventeenth Page, you hunt close, and whimper, and traverse your ground nimbly, to acquit your Masters out of briars, whereinto they have run themselves, *by granting sufferances to land and ship off goods, without any Excise Officers hand subscribed unto the sufferances*: But sir, you have hunted them farther in.

You confesse, First, *They grant sufferances to export goods, formerly imported, but the Ships are stayed at Graves-end, till the Excise Officer certifie satisfaction as to Excise, Viz. That the goods are entered outward.*

Secondly, *When small parcels are certified to be entered with the Excise, sufferances are granted to bring them up in Wherries.*

Thirdly, *Sufferances are granted to land bulkie goods, as Timber, Pitch, Hemp, &c.*

Fourthly, *Sufferances are granted to land goods into the Commonwealths Warehouse, when the Merchant demands them not.*

Fifthly, *They are granted to land goods brought from other Ports to London: which are not Exciseable, as Victuall, Sea-coales, Wooll, &c. But as for Exciseable Commodities so brought to London, no Sufferance is granted untill the Excise Officers hand is subscribed.*

So its evident that in all your five Cases, which is as much, as to say, in all Cases, you grant Sufferances without the Excise Officers hand subscribed.

And whereas you say, *that you grant no such Sufferances for Exciseable*

ciseable goods imported to London : It will appear under your Masters hands, and good proof upon oath, that multitudes of such Sufferances have been granted by the Commissioners of Customs, not onely for landing of bulkie goods, and such other things as you have formerly named, but also for the landing of Wines, Tobaccoes, Sugars, Spices, and other Grocery Drugs, yea bales of Silk, and Linnen : And therefore, either in your judgement such goods are not Exciseable, or else your Masters will be convicted of them.

As for Sufferances granted by them for goods not Exciseable, its true that Colonel *Harvey* and the Commissioners of Excise had conference about them. And the Major parts opinion was not to insist on their Officers subscribing of them. But afterwards, finding that amongst such goods, Commodities Exciseable were frequently brought to *London*, and likewise conveyed thence, to the prejudice of the Excise, the Major part of the Commissioners did alter their opinion.

And the Law appearing positive, That no Sufferance, Victualing bill, Ballast bill, &c. nor any other Warrant whatsoever, for landing or shippinge off any goods, should be passed by the Customs Officer, without the Excise Officers hand, first subscribed unto it, they did order Mr. *Lenthal* thenceforrh to insist upon it.

Now *Jeremy*, look back, and see how wisely you prove your Assertion.

You say, *Your Masters doe not constanstly grant sufferances*; and with the same breath, you say, in effect, that *they doe grant them constantly*, for you confesse, *they grant them in your five cases*, and that is, in all cases, especially *if the Goods be entred with the Excise*. Sir, Entry with the Excise, especially imperfect Entries at sight, whereon most of your sufferances are granted, is no warrant to your Masters, to grant sufferances unscribed by the Excise Officer, to take Goods Exciseable from off ship-board, and to land them without the view of an Excise Officer at any Key, especially at *Blackwall*, *Ratcliffe*, *Debtford*, and other places, where no Land-waiter attendeth, neither have your Masters authority by any

Law so to doe, but are prohibited it under severe penalty: so that now every man may see, that Ignoramus hath taken up his quarters with *Jeremy* at the Custome-house.

As for your affirmation, That *signing such sufferances by the Excise Officers, would bring them in multitude of Groats*, its a meer forgery, rudely woven out of your own brain; Groatage is Custome-house claim. Mr. *Vancourt* and others can tell you, that Bill or Bond money is not tollerated by the Commissioners of Excise.

In your twentieth Page you play the Hell-hound, raging *Cerberus* like, that the *Quaries* doe charge your three Masters, to have *unduly maintained persons detected of defrauding the Excise*; this you affirm, is to out-lye the Devill, &c.

Withall, Page twenty one, *You desire to have some such detected persons named, that have been so unduly maintained.* S.r, you have heard of your dearly beloved *Opey* already, and how he was helpt over the stile.

Then Sir, as to the counterfeit Warrants put in ure by one of your own Tribe, which you mention in the same page; Mr: *Blackborn* can tell you, how many defrauders of Excise, that made use of those Warrants, had their informations against them, before the Commissioners of Excise superceded by speciall order of the Committee for Regulation, and referred to the Commissioners of Customes; you may imagine at whose instance, and to what intent.

Ask your grand Master, who maintained the Sopemakers of *London* against the Commissioners of Excise, in the businesse of blank Tickets? Who countenanced a rigorous prosecution against four of the most industrious and upright Excise Officers, before the Committee of Regulation, for no other cause in truth, but for that they informed against a near related friend of your grand Signior for detaining Excise due?

Ask your Masters, who endeavoured the restoring of fifteen Ballets of Tapestry and Linnen, seized for non-payment of Excise, and that forsooth under pretence of sending for them, from *Essex* to *London*, in order to a new appraisement, when they were condemned

demned before in the Exchequer, and sold to the Merchant, and the time of appraisement fully passed.

Ask them, who did surreptitiously procure a peremptory Order from the Committee of Regulation to the Commissioners of Excise, to restore those Goods to the Commissioners of Customs, upon that false suggestion? and what was the issue thereof? Mr. *Larkin* their Collector at *Malden* can remind them hereof, if it be forgotten: Sir, if you cannot from all this smell out palpable undue maintenance of persons detected in defrauding the Excise, there are yet some grosser things lying in deck, that shall fully silence every Curre that barks or bawles against it.

Then you proclaim your Masters wisdom, in discovering *Pratt* the Excise Officer, with *Welden* and *Ludlow* Customs Officers, in their deceits: Sir, you shall be allowed the same account throughout all your districts; it seems, by your own account, that as your Sallaries hold double proportion with the Excise Sallaries, and your Knapfacks many doubles, so your number of knaves is double also, your self reckon them two for one.

In your last Page, you snarle at the Author of the Quæries, as one that hath been a gainer by the Common-wealth. Sir, as to this, upon scrutiny it will plainly appear, that each of your Masters hath gained sevenfold more by the Common-wealth, than the Author of the Quæries ever gained; and that none of your three Masters hath acted and suffered half so much for the Common-wealth as the Author of the Quæries hath done, as is well known to divers honourable Members both of the Parliament and Army.

Then you assert, *the Author of the Quæries to be low prized, in offering to serve in both Receipts at 1 d. ob. poundage upon them both*: And you affirm, *That wise men will rather give 2 s. per diem to workmen, than 12 d. per diem to bunglers*: Sir, by this it appeareth, that your Masters expect 3 d. poundage on both Receipts. The proposall to serve at 1 d. ob. poundage, was made on purpose to discover the depth of your Masters designs in the Reducement, *viz.* the improvement of their own Sallaries, under a specious pretext of retrenching others Salaries: And now Sir, their design is disclosed from your own mouth. Sir, should your Masters

receive 3 *d.* poundage upon both Receipts, by the Reducement, it would advance each of their Salaries to 1200 *l. per annum* at least, which is somewhat more than a considerable Sallary; for your self affirm, that 3 *d. per l.* upon the Excise alone, is a considerable Sallary, in your sixth page; yea, you call it a large one, in page twelve, though it exceeds not half that which your Masters gape after.

Now *Jeremy*, to give thee thy due, thou hast throughout thy Pamphlet exactly answered thy Masters whistle, they might doe well to provide some scraps to reward thee. But though your Masters doe usually, like Moales, work underground, they are not undiscerned. The Brat, the substance of thy Pamphlet, is theirs; and thou, like a wittall, doest onely father it, and cloth it with course woven scurrility, and trim the pages and lines thereof with notorious lies, wherein you have approved your self such an Artist, that the Father of lies, mentioned in your book, can hardly outvie thee in his own Trade. Notwithstanding all thy scurrility, malice, and falsehoods crowded together in thy Pamphlet against the Author of the Quæries, whom thou canst not blast, yet shall I not be so uncharitable, as to wish thee a *Tuburn* blessing: Onely I shall recommend thee to thy Masters care, not to restore thee to watching of Hawkes, every Curre is not capable of that employment. But my proposall is, that when the Reducement receiveth being, according to your Masters own desire, they would make thee Collector Generall of the Customes of all Whet-stones imported into the Nation, there being no other man to be found half so fit for that service, or that in probability will half so well deserve it: In the meantime I wish, that while your Masters catch at a shadow, they lose not that substance, or part of it, which they have in their mouths already; it being much doubted, that their *Gratis* Sallary will ere long be retrenched to *semi-Gratis*: *Anglice*, half Groats poundage, after the genuine Customary interpretation,

Tho: Dakins.